Register of Provincial roads

5. A similar register should be maintained by the Executive Engineer for provincial roads where permission to plant has been given under paragraph 2.

CHAPTER XIV

(1) Selection of Trees for Avenues

1. The objects to be aimed at in choosing trees for roadside avenues are the following :—

(1) Provision of shade for travellers.

(2) Improvement of the landscape.

(3) Addition to the food-supply of the people.

(4) Provision of a fodder-reserve in famines.

These objects are stated in the order of their importance and should be carefully considered when operations are being planned. As an exception, the third and fourth objects may be disregarded in planting roads in the immediate neighbourhood of civil stations and large towns. In the case of station and town roads the importance of even the first object is diminished.

2. The best general principle to follow is to select trees of those kinds which are found growing under similar conditions in the district, and which best fulfil the objects stated in the last paragraph. Many trees which yield a supply of food or other produce, are good shade trees and also handsome, so that it is possible, by the exercise of a little care, to secure, in many cases, almost all the objects which are desired. Advice, when required, may be obtained from the Forest Officers, in the case of forest trees of the tract or, in the case of other trees and ornamental avenues, from the Director of Parks and Gardens.

3. As a rule, the trees in the same length of avenue should be of the same kind. If the trees are uniform in look and growth the effect is excellent and a much better price can usually be obtained for the produce where all trees of the same kind are together. But for general planting trees should

be selected which are known to grow well in the vicinity or in similar localities. It is of course desirable to introduce new kinds which are useful or ornamental, but, where the success of the experiment is doubtful, it should be tried on a small scale. Deep-rooted and hardwood trees may be planted in exposed situation in preference to shallow-rooted and soft ones.

4. A list of trees which are more or less suitable for avenues is given below. Information as full as is available is given for each, but it must be remembered that local conditions may render this information incorrect and it will be for the Officers in charge of operations to note such cases. The distances shown are for trees planted on average soil. If the soil is rocky the distance should be reduced by five feet and if the soil is deep and fertile the distance should be increased by five feet.

(2) List of Trees

E. English, H. Hindi, M. Marathi, G. Gujarati, K. Kannad.

1. *Acacia arabica.* E. Babul; H. Babul; M. Bhabhul; G. Baval; K. Karijali.

A small thorny tree with many small branches and small bluish green leaves. Bark dark brown and rough. It bears leaves and pods are greatly relished by goats. Unripe pods yellow globular flowers about ½″ diam. and pods 6″ long. The are used in the preparation of ink. Seeds excreted by goats grow easily otherwise they have to be soaked for some days in cowdung water before sowing. The tree produces the common gum arabica. The wood is tough, close grained and durable and is used for cart wheels etc. However, the wood is mostly used for fuel. The bark is used for tanning. This tree is unsuitable for roadsides on account of its thorns but it may be planted along canals. Distance apart 30 feet.

2. *Acacia moniformis.* E. Australia Babul.

A graceful medium sized evergreen tree with slightly droping branches and greyish brown bark. The narrow bright green leathery leaves are scattered along slender twigs.

It bears yellow spikes of flowers in loose bunches near the ends of the twigs. The pods are flat and twisted. Flowers September to October. Easily grown from seed. Distance apart 30 feet.